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serve as Police touts in detecting crimes in villages and is the Hon. Minister also aware of the fact that these officials do not adduce any reason for such refusal which is *ultra vires* of the Constitution according to the judgment of the High Court of Madras? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" If it is about Chingleput district, let the hon. Member put a separate question."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" I shall amend my question, Sir. My question relates to the entire State of Madras."

MR. SPEAKER :—" I will allow the Hon. Minister to answer the second part of the question."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Let me repeat my question, Sir. Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that in many cases where the grant of licence was refused, it was refused on the pretext that the applicants did not serve as Police touts in detecting crimes in rural areas? The second part of my question is . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member has now left out ' Chingleput district ' from his question."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" The second part of the question is ' Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that proper reasons are not adduced while refusing these licences? ' This is *ultra vires* of the Constitution according to the judgment of the Madras High Court."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" This is a general question. The question under reply relates to South Kanara."

Repairs to the bridge near the Ramanathapuram irrigation tank.

* 1109 *Q.*—SRI G. GOVINDAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to repair the bridge near the Ramanathapuram irrigation tank?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The work of constructing a new bridge at about 200 feet upstream of the existing old bridge was sanctioned recently by the Central Government and will be taken up for execution shortly."

Assignment of 15 cents of land to each Harijan family in Malabar.

* 1110 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have directed the Collector of Malabar to expedite the assignment of house-sites (15 cents of land) to each Harijan family and adequate available cultivable land to the landless persons (Harijans); and

(*b*) if so, the extent of house-sites and lands so far assigned in the year 1953?

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) The Collector of Malabar has been asked to take up urgent cases of land acquisition for the provision of house-sites at 15 cents per family to the Harijans. But no special instructions have been issued to the Collector to expedite the assignment of available cultivable lands to the Harijans.

" (*b*) No house-site was assigned to Harijans in Malabar during 1953. But acquisition proceedings for the acquisition of land for house-sites have been initiated in three cases while eight cases for acquisition are under enquiry. An extent of 1·73 acres of land has been assigned to the Harijans for cultivation during the year 1953."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, இது போன்ற கேள்விகள் சென்ற அசெம்பிளியில் கேட்கப்பட்டன. ஆவன செய்வதாக கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் உறுதி அளித்தார்கள். குறிப்பாக மலபாரிலுள்ள ஹரிஜனங்களின் நிலைமை மிக மிக மோசமாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகவே ரெவின்யு அதிகாரிகளுக்கு—தாசில்தார்களுக்கு விசேஷ அதிகாரம் கொடுத்து ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு நிலம் வழங்குவது போன்ற காரியங்களைச் செய்யவேண்டும். அவர்களுக்கு குறைந்தபட்சம் வீட்டு மனைகளாவது கொடுப்பதற்கு வேண்டிய விசேஷ அதிகாரங்களை தாசில்தார் போன்ற ரெவின்யு அதிகாரிகளுக்கு அளிக்க சர்க்கார் முன்வருமா ?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" All possible things will be done."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, are the Govern- 11-40 a.m
ment aware, as far as I know, there are several cases—that a large number of Harijan families were evicted from their houses in the last five years, more especially after the passing of the Malabar Tenancy (Amendment) Act? May I know from the Hon. Minister what has been done to implement the Government Order relating to grant of house-sites to Harijans? How many sites have been assigned for the last five years?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The Collector of Malabar reported that there were 300 land acquisition cases in the district which were really very urgent and that, excepting stray cases of eviction here and there in the district, no Harijan family has been actually thrown out of its home."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In view of the complaints about large scale eviction of Harijans from their hutments, will the Government instruct the Civil Courts and Rent Controllers to intimate the Collector whenever an order for eviction of a Harijan family is passed either by the Rent Controller or through the Civil Court?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The Government do not propose to do so."

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—" In view of the fact that there is long delay in assigning this kind of house-sites to Harijans—I know they are kept pending for years together ranging from

one year to four years—will the Hon. Minister give an assurance on the floor of this House that the Government will come forward to appoint a Special Officer for assignment of house-sites to Harijans? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The original question relates to Malabar and I do not know whether the hon. Member refers to Malabar."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" In view of the fact that the Collector of Malabar has written repeatedly that it is impossible for him to go into the land acquisition cases of Harijans without special staff, may I know whether the Government have considered this question especially in view of the assurance given by the former Minister for Harijan Uplift on previous occasions? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Yes, Sir, the question of supplying adequate staff is receiving the active consideration of the Government."

SRI V. S. SIVAPRAKASAM :—" May I know whether there was any assignment at all of house-sites to Harijans in the last two years in Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I have come prepared to answer the question with regard to the year 1953. If the hon. Member chooses to put a separate question, I shall try to answer it."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Are there enough *poramboke* lands in Malabar to give at least 15 cents of land to 10 per cent of the Harijans. I made a reference sometime ago and the then Minister promised to look into it. Has the Hon. Minister any information on the subject and will the Government also resort to acquisition in villages where there are no *poramboke* lands available, if there are demands from Harijans? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Unlike other districts, where only 3 or 5 cents of land are given, 15 cents of land is given in Malabar owing to the peculiar circumstances prevailing there. But, at the time of issue of these orders, the Rent Settlement staff for fixation of fair rent under the Malabar Tenancy Act was appointed. As it would not be possible to find out who were houseless and who had no legal rights to the existing sites until a record of rights was prepared by the Rent Settlement staff, the implementation of the scheme for the provision of house-sites to the Harijans in the Malabar district was postponed to a certain extent."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Is it a fact that the Government have instructed the Collector of Malabar by sending a sort of questionnaire to find out whether the so-called '*ulkudi*' right really vests in the tenants in Malabar—which will go a long way in giving fixity of tenure to Harijans—and to report such of the cases where it will not be applicable? "

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" As it is a very important question, I demand a half-hour debate."

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I think I have sufficiently answered the question. I have conceded the point raised by the hon. Member."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member has requested a half-hour debate and I am allowing it."

Quantity of foodgrains that became unsuitable for human consumption.

* 1111 *Q.*—SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN (on behalf of Sri K. Aranganathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the quantity of foodgrains that became unsuitable for human consumption during the year 1953 in the Madras State and the total amount of loss due to this?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The total quantity of foodgrains that became unsuitable for human consumption during 1953 was about 10,345 maunds and the total amount of loss due to this was Rs. 4,03,918."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Who was responsible for allowing such foodgrains to become so bad and how much more of such stuff the Government have in stock? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is inevitable that when we have storage on a large scale, a portion of it gets deteriorated. When reduced to percentage, it works out to 0·03 per cent of the total quantity of foodgrains we dealt with."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I know whether the spoiled foodgrains are used for any other purpose. If so, what is the amount realized therefrom? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" If it is possible, it is used as cattle-feed. As to the amount realized by selling it as cattle-feed, a separate question may be put."

Provision of employment to the tramway labourers.

* 1112 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have taken any action on the representations made by the Madras Electric Tramways Association not to prolong the state of unemployment of the tramway labourers ; and

(*b*) if so, the remedies proposed by the Government?